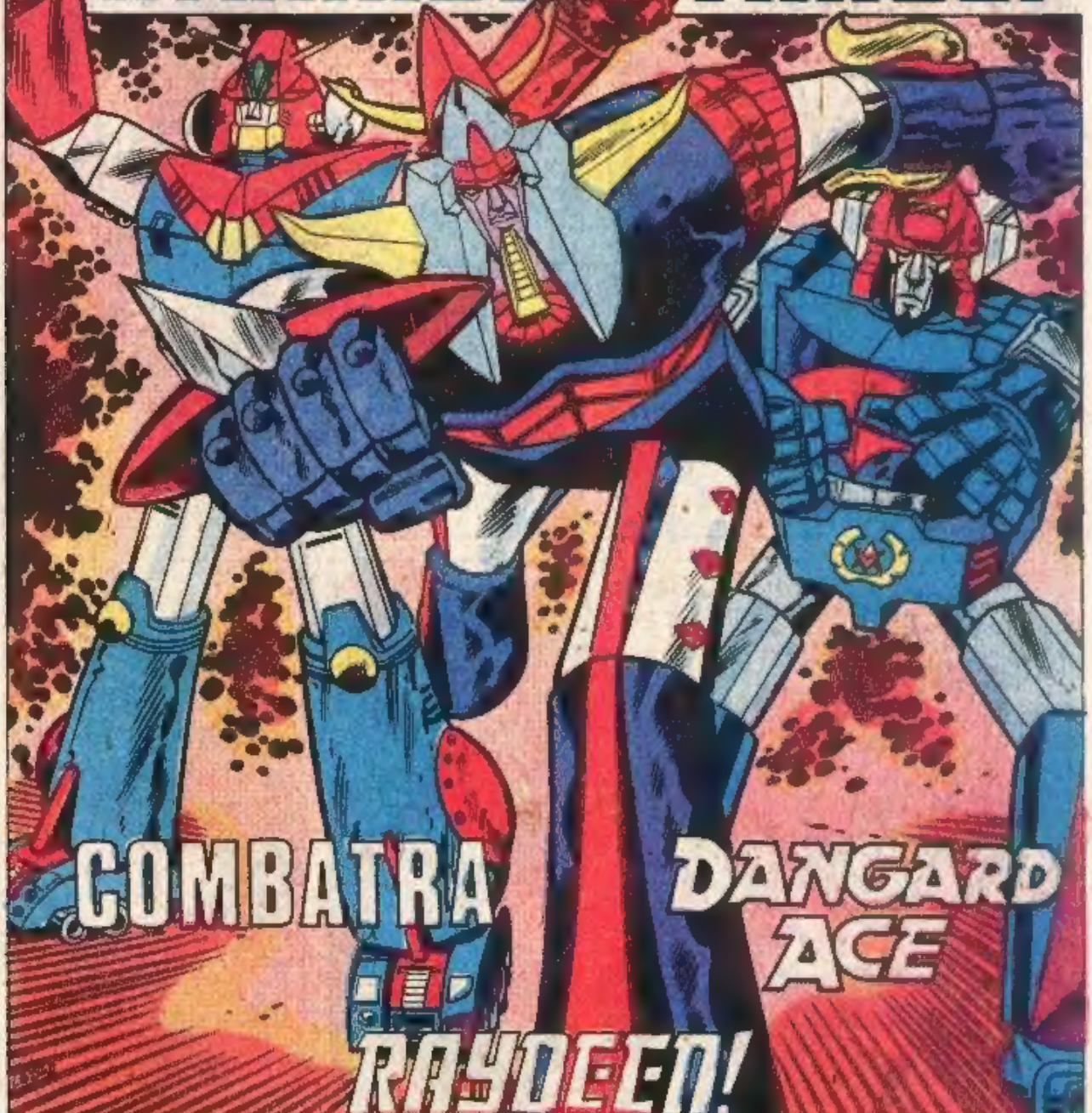
STILL ONLY 35¢
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
2 MAR 02715
INVINCIBLE GUARDIANS OF WORLD FREEDOM!
©1978 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SHOGUN WARRIORS™
COMBATRA AND DANGARD ACE JOIN RAYDEEN TO BATTLE THE ELEMENTALS OF EVIL!

From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Danguard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Ilongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

Stan Lee Presents: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

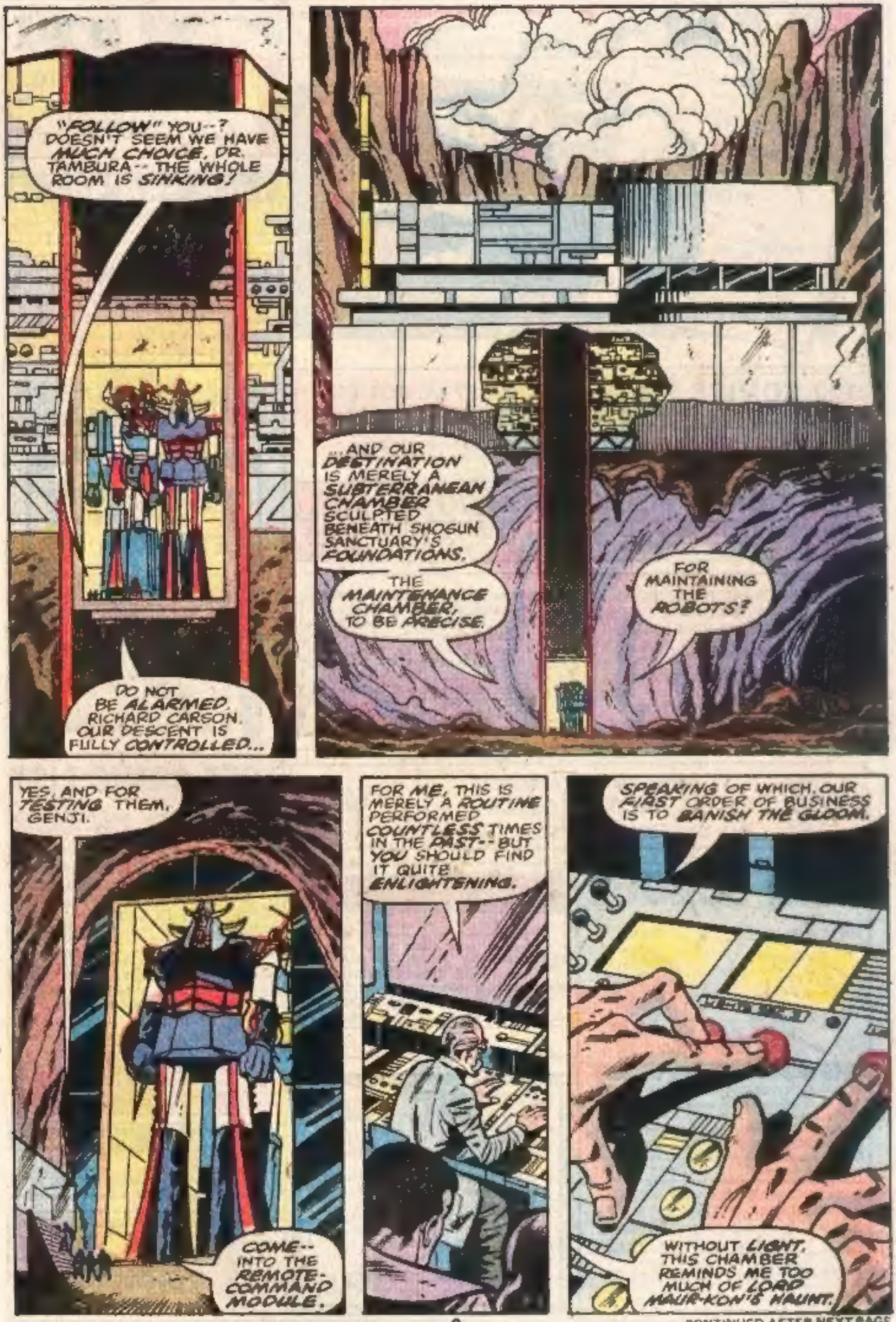
WARRIORS THREE!



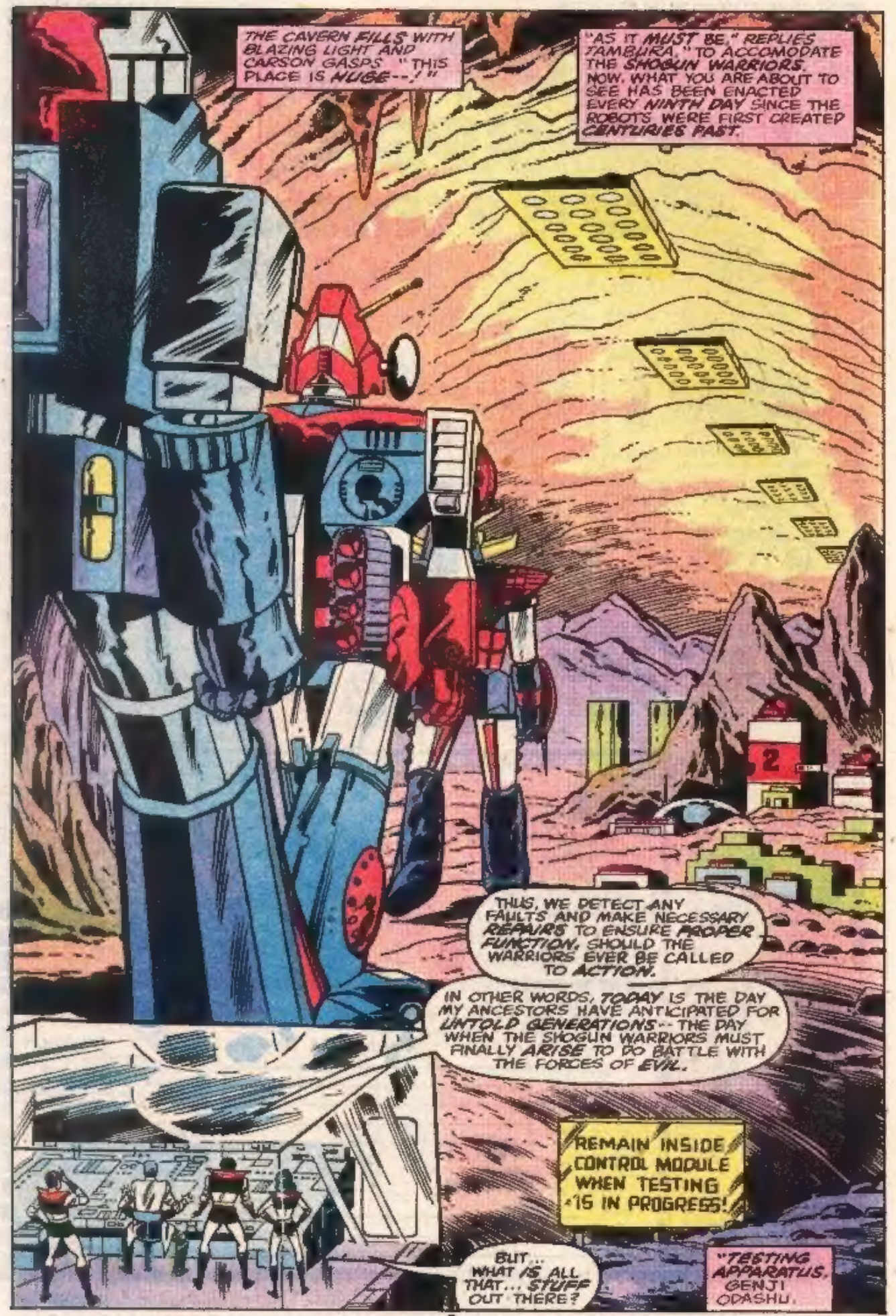
DOUG MOENCH WRITER | HERB TRIMPE ARTIST | DAN GREEN INKER | JIM NOVAK, LETTERER / ANDY YANCHUS, COLORIST | ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER EX-IN-CHIEF

SHOGUN WARRIORS™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Office of Publication: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022. Published monthly. Combatra Copyright ©1978 Hiromi Pro/Toei. All rights reserved. Dangard Ace copyright ©1978 Reiji Matsumoto/Toei Animation. All rights reserved. Raydeen copyright ©1978 Tohokushinsha. All rights reserved. All other material copyright ©1978 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, a Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 2, March, 1979 issue. Price 35¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $4.50 for 12 issues. Canada, $5.50. Foreign, $6.50. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers, and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHOGUN™ and SHOGUN WARRIORS™ are trademarks of MATTEL, INC. and are used with permission.

SHOGUN SANCTUARY, LOCATED AT THE HEART OF A REMOTE FAR EASTERN MOUNTAIN RANGE...
SORRY, DR. TAMBURA. YOU'VE CHOSEN US THREE ABOVE ALL OTHERS AS YOUR AGENTS OF THE LIGHT...
...BUT OUR FIRST MISSION WITH RAYDEEN WAS LARGELY--
...A FAILURE.
NO, ILONGO SAVAGE, FOR YOUR GUIDANCE OF RAYDEEN HAS AT LEAST SAVED THE CITY.
AND FOR THAT ALONE, YOUR NAME -- AS WELL AS THE NAMES GENJI ODASHU AND RICHARD CARSON -- WILL LONG BE HONORED BY MYSELF AND MY FELLOW FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT.
HOWEVER THE MONSTER ROK-KORR IS STILL AT LARGE AND MUST BE STOPPED. INDEED, HE IS NOW EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE.
THUS, WE MUST EMPLOY THE ADDED MIGHT OF THE OTHER TWO SHOGUN WARRIORS...
...COMBATRA...
...AND DANGARD ACE!
TWO MORE GIANT ROBOTS--!!
YES, AND SINCE YOU HAVE DIVERTED ROK-KORR FROM DESTROYING THE CITY, THE IMMEDIATE DANGER HAS BEEN AVERTED, AND THERE IS NOW TIME FOR FURTHER TRAINING, PRIMING AND DEMONSTRATION.
FOLLOW ME, IF YOU WILL.


"FOLLOW" YOU--? DOESN'T SEEM WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DR. TAMBURA-- THE WHOLE ROOM IS SINKING!
DO NOT BE ALARMED, RICHARD CARSON. OUR DESCENT IS FULLY CONTROLLED...
...AND OUR DESTINATION IS MERELY A SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER SCULPTED BENEATH SHOGUN SANCTUARY'S FOUNDATIONS.
THE MAINTENANCE CHAMBER, TO BE PRECISE.
FOR MAINTAINING THE ROBOTS?
YES, AND FOR TESTING THEM, GENJI.
COME-- INTO THE REMOTE-COMMAND MODULE.
FOR ME, THIS IS MERELY A ROUTINE PERFORMED COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST-- BUT YOU SHOULD FIND IT QUITE ENLIGHTENING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO BANISH THE GLOOM.
WITHOUT LIGHT, THIS CHAMBER REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF LORD MAUR-KON'S HAUNT.

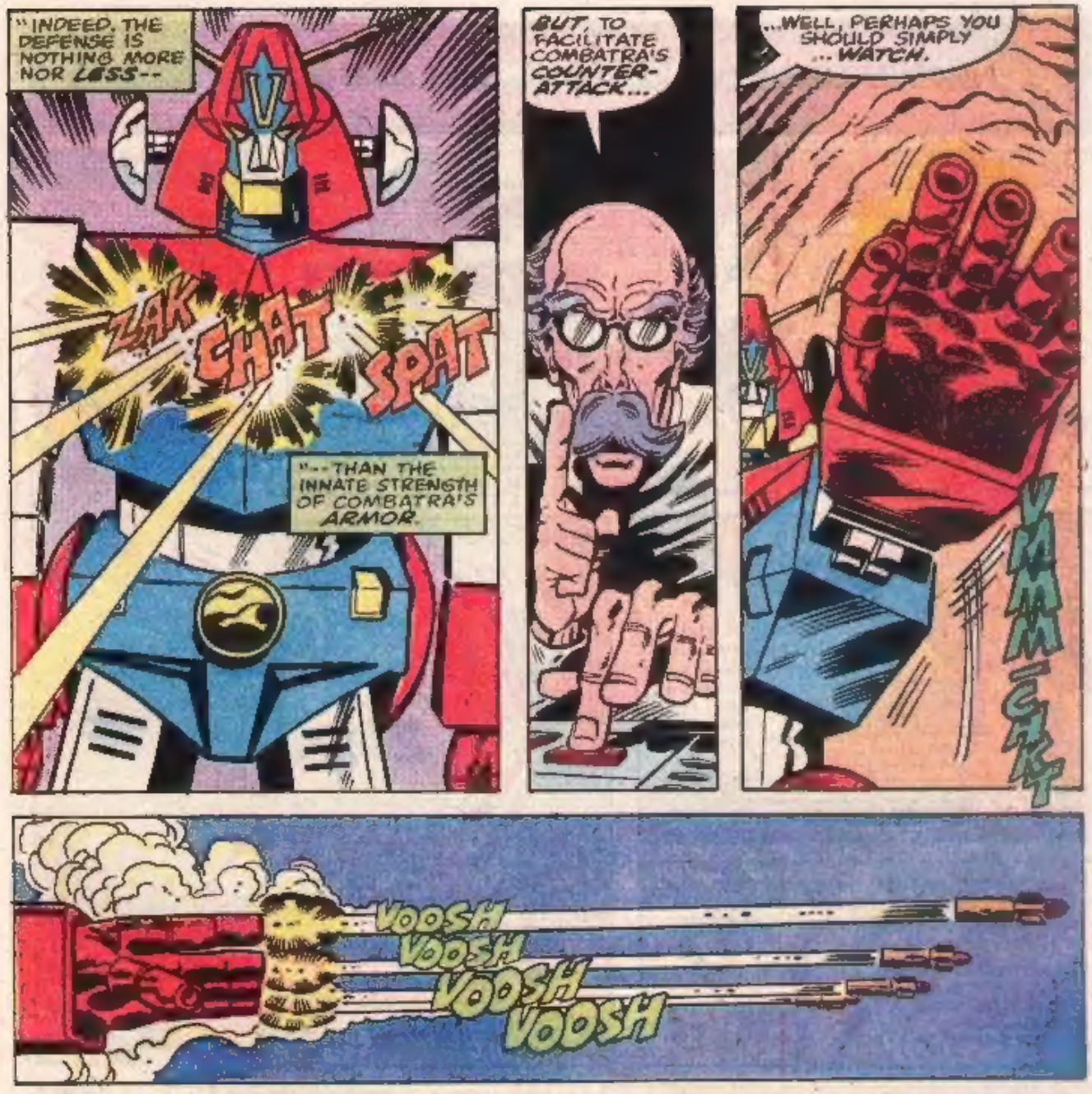
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

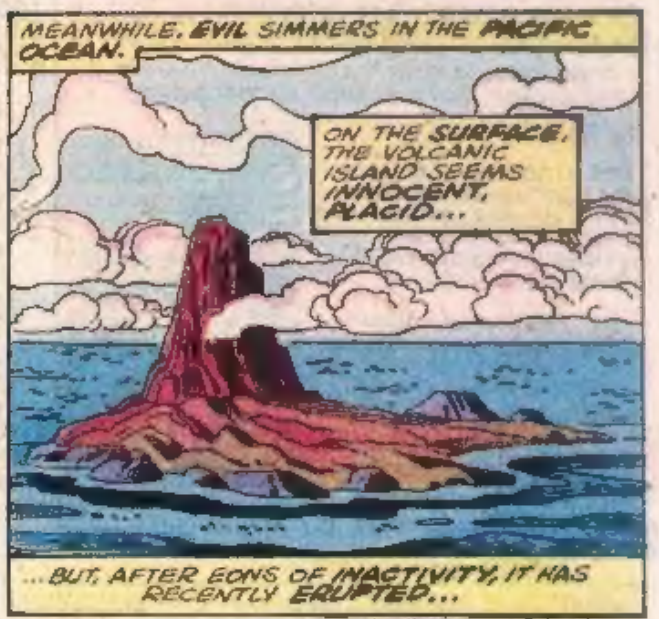

THE CAVERN FILLS WITH BLAZING LIGHT AND CARSON GASPS "THIS PLACE IS HUGE--!"
"AS IT MUST BE," REPLIES TAMBURA, "TO ACCOMODATE THE SHOGUN WARRIORS. NOW, WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE HAS BEEN ENACTED EVERY NINTH DAY SINCE THE ROBOTS WERE FIRST CREATED CENTURIES PAST.
THUS, WE DETECT ANY FAULTS AND MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO ENSURE PROPER FUNCTION. SHOULD THE WARRIORS EVER BE CALLED TO ACTION.
IN OTHER WORDS, TODAY IS THE DAY MY ANCESTORS HAVE ANTICIPATED FOR UNTOLD GENERATIONS -- THE DAY WHEN THE SHOGUN WARRIORS MUST FINALLY ARISE TO DO BATTLE WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL.
REMAIN INSIDE CONTROL MODULE WHEN TESTING IS IN PROGRESS!
BUT... WHAT IS ALL THAT... STUFF OUT THERE?
"TESTING APPARATUS, GENJI ODASHU.

"AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE MANEUVERED THE ROBOTS INTO POSITION VIA THE MODULE'S REMOTE CONTROLS --SOMETHING YOU MUST DO, IN ACTUAL BATTLE SITUATIONS, FROM WITHIN THE ROBOTS."
"BUT IF THEY CAN BE OPERATED FROM!"
THE REMOTE CONTROL RANGE IS LIMITED, GENJI. BESIDES, THE SPONTANEOUS JUDGMENT OF A HUMAN MIND ON THE SCENE--
--IS FAR SUPERIOR TO PREPROGRAMMING AND REMOTE-MANIPULATION.
NOW, AS TARGET-MONOLITH NUMBER SEVEN RISES--
--DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE WARRIOR DANGARD ACE, WHOSE FIRST LINE OF ATTACK IS ALWAYS--
CH-CHOOSH
"--HIS PHOTON-SPHERES, LAUNCHED FROM TWIN CHAMBERS IN HIS CHEST HOUSING.
"IN MOST ENCOUNTERS, THIS MODE OF OFFENSE SHOULD SUFFICE.
RAKT
FRAKT
"HOWEVER, SHOULD DANGARD ACE'S FOE REMAIN STANDING--
"--HIS COMPUTER-GUIDED ROCKET-FIST CAN THEN BE DEPLOYED IN A FOLLOW-UP STRIKE.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"OUR MAIN COMPUTERS ESTIMATE THAT THIS COMBINATION WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE IN 99 OUT OF 100 INSTANCES.
SHAKT
"BUT REMEMBER! UNTIL TODAY, MAUR KON'S POWERS HAD NEVER BEEN TESTED BY OUR WARRIORS.
NEXT, WATCH RAYDEEN--
TARGET DRONE SEQUENCE
"--AS HE DISPATCHES THESE TARGET-DRONES WITH A WEAPON WE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO DEMONSTRATE EARLIER...
"FIRST, RAYDEEN LOCKS HIS ARM IN THE FIRE POSITION--
"--TRIGGERING SPRINGS IN HIS WRIST--
"--WHICH RELEASE THE BOW COMPONENTS--
"--AND ENABLE HIM TO FIRE HIS MISSILE-ARROWS...
"...EACH EQUIPPED WITH A WARHEAD--
"--CONTAINING FIVE SEQUENTIAL DETONATIONS.
CHOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
"HAD YOU BEEN AWARE OF THIS CAPABILITY, AS WELL AS OTHERS, YOUR FIRST MISSION WITH RAYDEEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.
"NOW I SHALL ACTIVATE THE CANNON BUNKER TO PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION OF ELEMENTARY DEFENSE...
BUH-BOOM



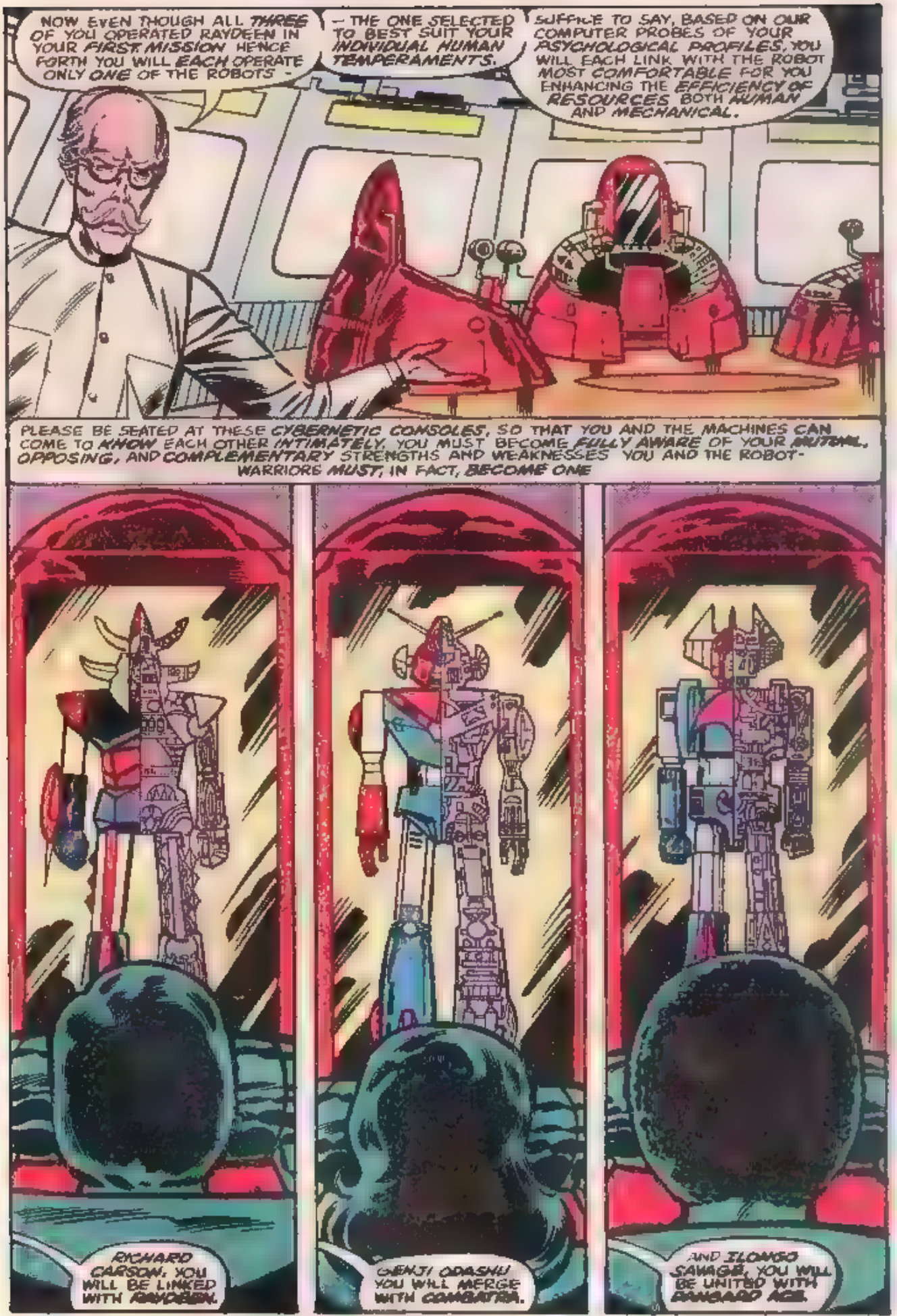

MEANWHILE, EVIL SIMMERS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
ON THE SURFACE, THE VOLCANIC ISLAND SEEMS INNOCENT, PLACID...
...BUT, AFTER EONS OF INACTIVITY, IT HAS RECENTLY ERUPTED...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

...AND, IN THE BLISTERING HEAT OF ITS MAGMA, IN THE VIOLENCE OF ITS TREMORS, A SPELL OF LONG SLEEP HAS BEEN SHATTERED. DEEP UNDER THE ISLAND, WITHIN A SUBTERRANEAN VAULT BUILT IN ANTIQUITY, THE DREAD LORD MAUR-KON AND HIS DARK AGENTS--THE FORCES OF EVIL ETERNAL--HAVE AT LAST AWAKENED...
HEAR ME, MY DARK AGENTS! WE HAVE LAIN FOR CENTURIES IN AN ENFORCED STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
AND NOW THAT WE HAVE AWAKENED, SEEKING VENGEANCE FOR OUR DEFEAT IN THE GREAT CHAOS WARS--
--WE HAVE FOUND THE FORCES OF ETERNAL GOOD STILL READY AND WAITING TO RENEW OUR ANCIENT STRUGGLE!

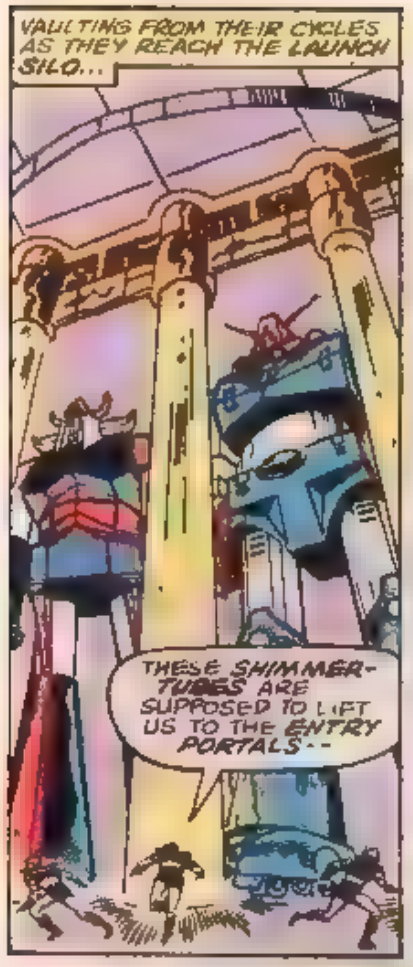
LOOK TO THE ARCANE MIRROR-SCREEN, UPON WHICH I SHALL CONJURE IMAGES OF THAT WHICH HAS TRANSPIRED.
YOU KNOW THAT OUR FIRST CREATION, ROK-KORR, WAS SENT ON A MISSION OF EVIL AND DESTRUCTION.
I INFORM YOU, NOW, THAT ROK-KORR FAILED. HE WAS OPPOSED BY THIS GIANT ROBOT -- OBVIOUSLY A CREATION OF OUR ETERNAL FOES, THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT!
ALTHOUGH CRUDE, PERHAPS INEXPERIENCED, THE ROBOT WAS MOST EFFECTIVE.
WE MUST LEARN WHERE IT CAME FROM--
--CRUSH ITS STRONGHOLD -- AND THEREBY DESTROY THE FORCES OF GOOD FOREVER!
ONLY THEN CAN WE CLAIM THE EARTH, UNOPPOSED, FOR EVIL!
THEREFORE, WE MUST DRAW THE ROBOT BACK INTO ACTION--
--BY POSING A NEW THREAT WITH OUR CREATION.
I WILL NOW USE THE POOL OF DARK LIFE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ROK-KORR AND GIVE HIM FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
THUS DOES LORD MAUR-KON, DEPRAVED AND DEVOTED ONLY TO EVIL, KNEEL OVER THE BUBBLING MAGMA...
...MURMURING ANCIENT, MYSTERIOUS, EVIL PHRASES.

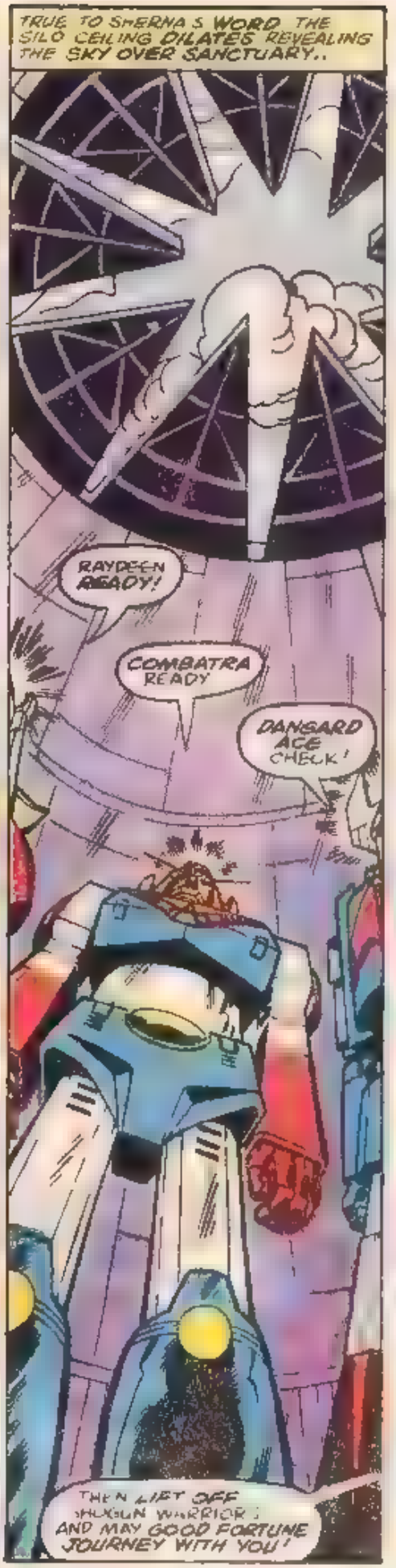
LOST AMONG THE MOUNTAINS, WHENCE HE HAD BEEN DECOYED BY RAYDEEN THE MONSTER ROK KORR ABRUPTLY STIFFENS, AS IF RESPONDING TO A SILENT SUMMONS..
WHAT LORD MAUR-KON ?
YES, LORD MAUR-KON-- I HEAR...
AND I SHALL OBEY.
AS YOU WISH IT SO SHALL IT BE,
DEATH SHALL DARKEN THIS DAY!
AT SHOGUN SANCTUARY, THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE CONCLUDED...
TIME AND EXPERIENCE ARE NEEDED FOR YOU TO COMPLETELY MASTER YOUR CONTROL OVER THE SHOGUNS, BUT IF YOU ARE DEDICATED...
I THINK WE ARE, DR TAMBURA, AS YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW--
+ OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SELECTED US OVER EVERYONE ELSE ON EARTH. BUT THIS IS KINDA HARD TO GRASP.
I MEAN, THE LAST THING ANY OF US NORMAL HUMANS WOULD SUSPECT IS THAT ALL THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON-- OR WAITING TO START UP AGAIN SINCE THE DAWN OF LIFE.
YES FOR EXAMPLE YOU SAY YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SENTINELS FOR UNTOLD GENERATIONS, AND THAT YOU'RE THE LAST OF THE LINE. WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE? I NOTICED THERE WAS ONLY ONE WOMAN AMONG YOU
I EXPLAINED THAT WE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT ARE NOT TRUE TERRANS OUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE THE RESULTS OF PARTHENOGENESIS.
SAY WHAT?
CLONING, AND AH, OTHER SCIENTIFIC METHODS
OH WELL, I THINK I PREFER THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

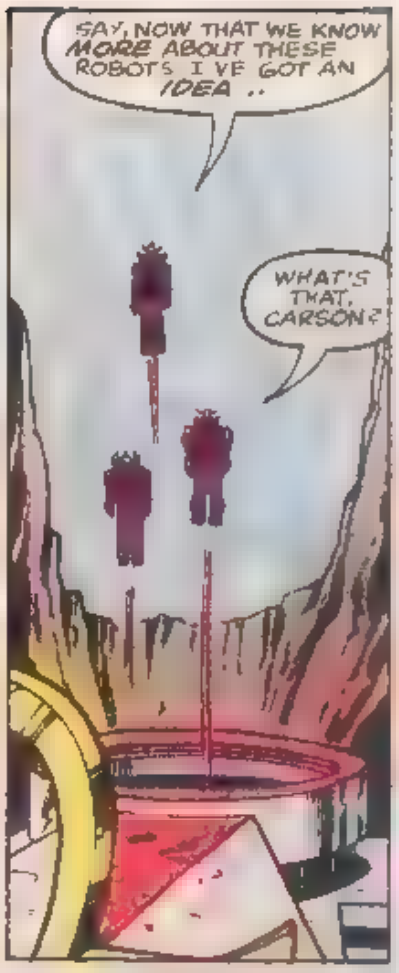

NOW EVEN THOUGH ALL THREE OF YOU OPERATED RAYDEEN IN YOUR FIRST MISSION HENCE FORTH YOU WILL EACH OPERATE ONLY ONE OF THE ROBOTS -
-- THE ONE SELECTED TO BEST SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL HUMAN TEMPERAMENTS.
SUFFICE TO SAY, BASED ON OUR COMPUTER PROBES OF YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES, YOU WILL EACH LINK WITH THE ROBOT MOST COMFORTABLE FOR YOU ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF RESOURCES BOTH HUMAN AND MECHANICAL.
PLEASE BE SEATED AT THESE CYBERNETIC COMSOLES, SO THAT YOU AND THE MACHINES CAN COME TO KNOW EACH OTHER INTIMATELY. YOU MUST BECOME FULLY AWARE OF YOUR MUTUAL, OPPOSING, AND COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES YOU AND THE ROBOT-WARRIORS MUST, IN FACT, BECOME ONE
RICHARD CARSON, YOU WILL BE LINKED WITH RAYDEEN.
GENJI ODASHU YOU WILL MERGE WITH COMBATRA.
AND ILONSO SAVAGE, YOU WILL BE UNITED WITH BANGARD ACE.

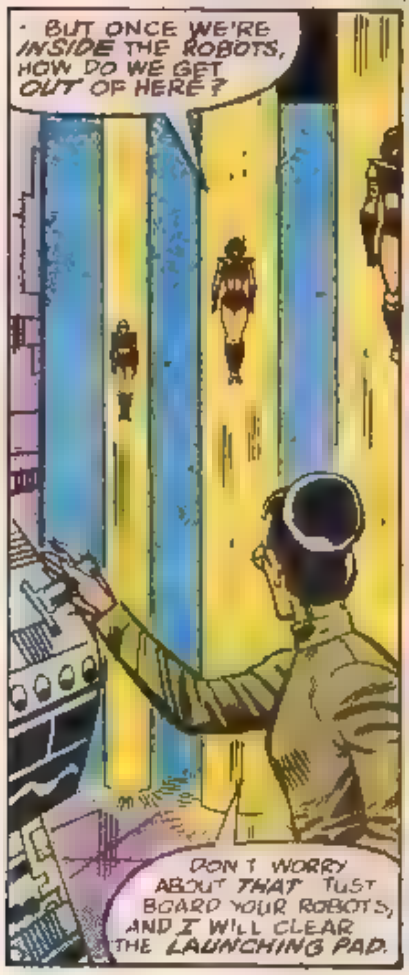
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BUT WHILE THE STRANGE COMMUNION OF MIND AND MACHINE BEGINS AT SHOGUN SANCTUARY, ELSEWHERE THE MONSTER ROK-KORR HAS REACHED ITS TARGET..
YES, LORD MAUR-KON
THE TIME IS NOW!
PHTOOM
AND ITS GOAL IS DESTRUCTION.
THE DESTRUCTION IS MONITORED BY THE THREE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT..
THE TRAIN APPROACHING THAT TRESTLE IS CARRYING A FREIGHT OF EXPLOSIVES. THERE IS NO WAY TO AVOID IT WE MUST.
INTERRUPT THEIR TRAINING AGAIN!"
TAMBURA-- ROK-KORR HAS DESTROYED THE MOUNTAIN TRESTLE!
QUICKLY AGENTS BREAK LINKAGE!
"TAKE YOUR JET-CYCLES TO THE LAUNCH SILO!
"SHERNA WILL AWAIT YOU - TO AID IN YOUR LAUNCH!"
MEANWHILE I WILL ACTIVATE THE SHIMMER-TUBES FROM HERE.
HOW FAR IS THE TRAIN FROM THE TRESTLE, CHARN?
ABOUT SIX MILES
THEN TIME IS VERY SHORT

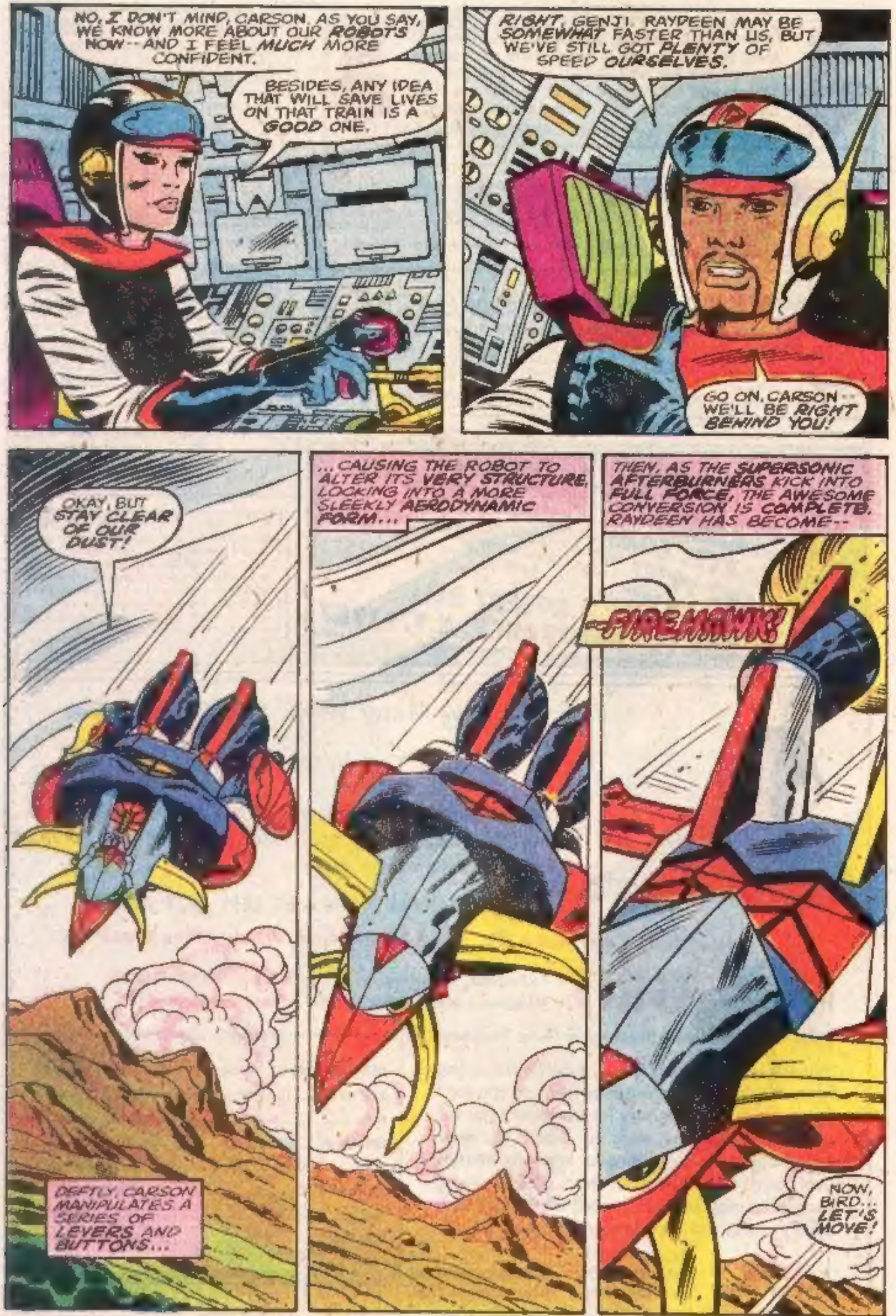

VAULTING FROM THEIR CYCLES AS THEY REACH THE LAUNCH SILO...
THESE SHIMMER-TUBES ARE SUPPOSED TO LIFT US TO THE ENTRY PORTALS--

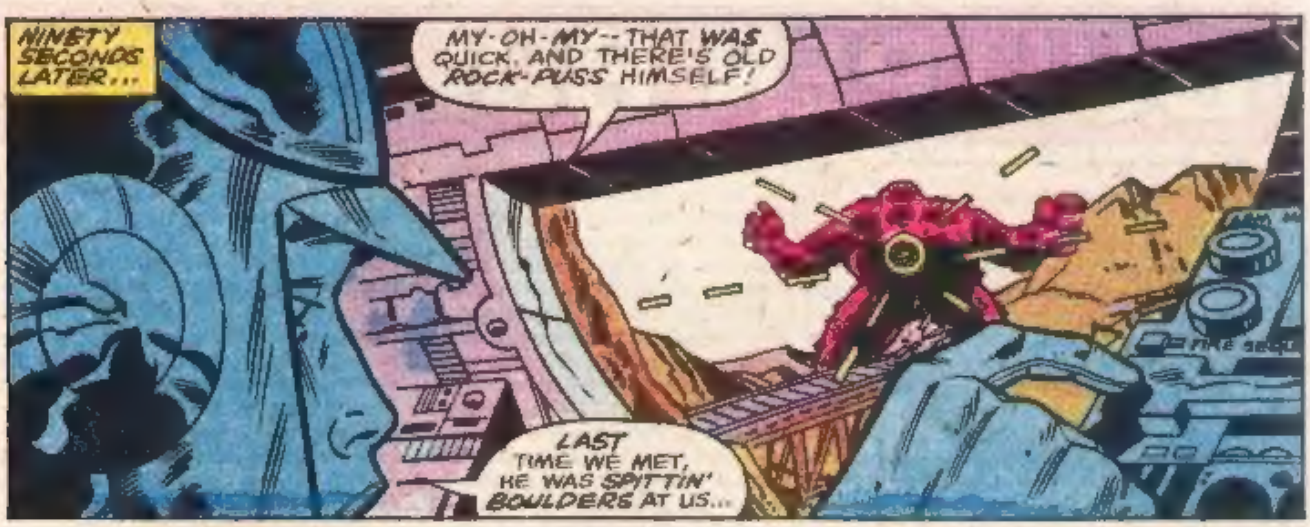

TRUE TO SHERNA'S WORD THE SILO CEILING DILATES REVEALING THE SKY OVER SANCTUARY..
RAYDEEN READY!
COMBATRA READY
DANGARD ACE CHECK!
THEN LIFT OFF SHOGUN WARRIOR! AND MAY GOOD FORTUNE JOURNEY WITH YOU!

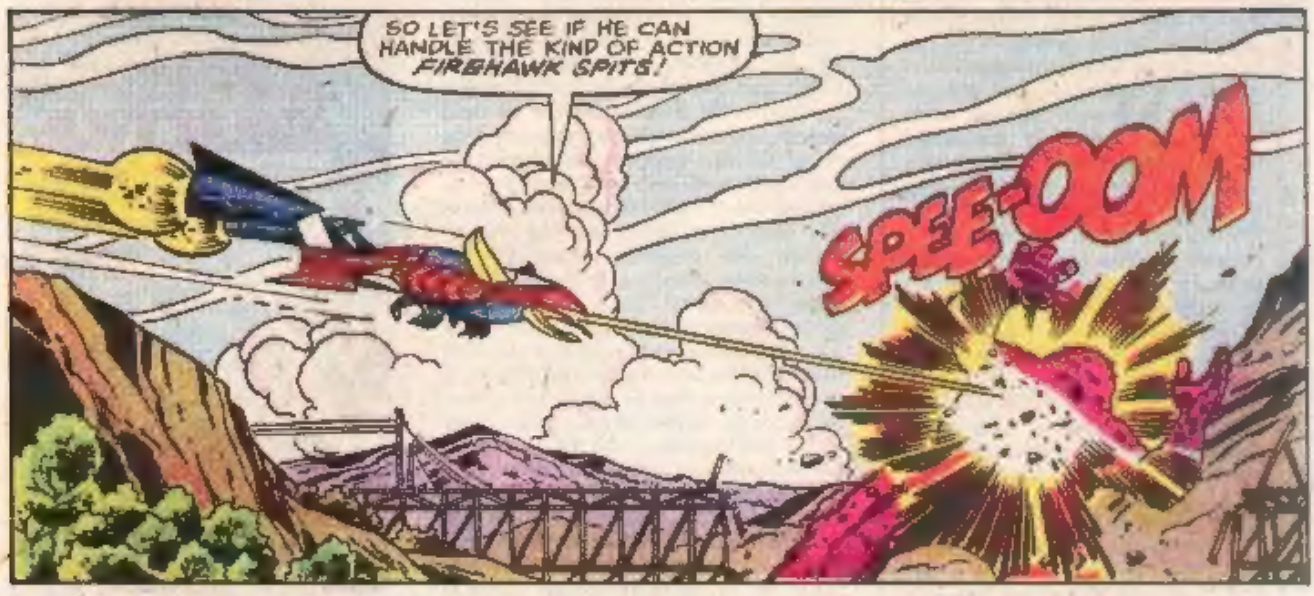


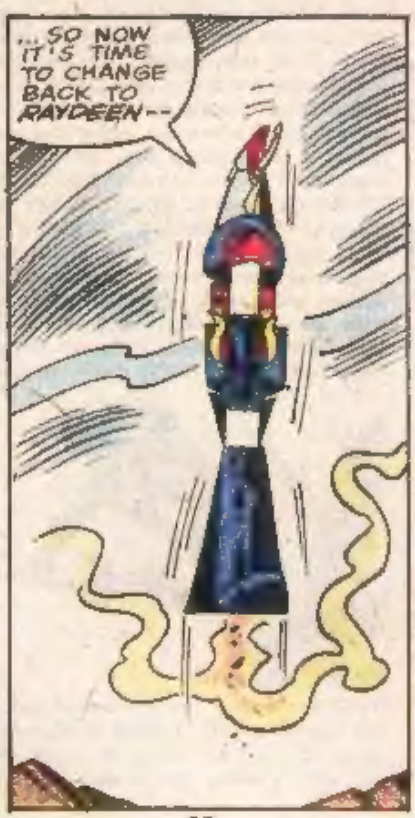

BUT ONCE WE'RE INSIDE THE ROBOTS, HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT JUST BOARD YOUR ROBOTS, AND I WILL CLEAR THE LAUNCHING PAD.

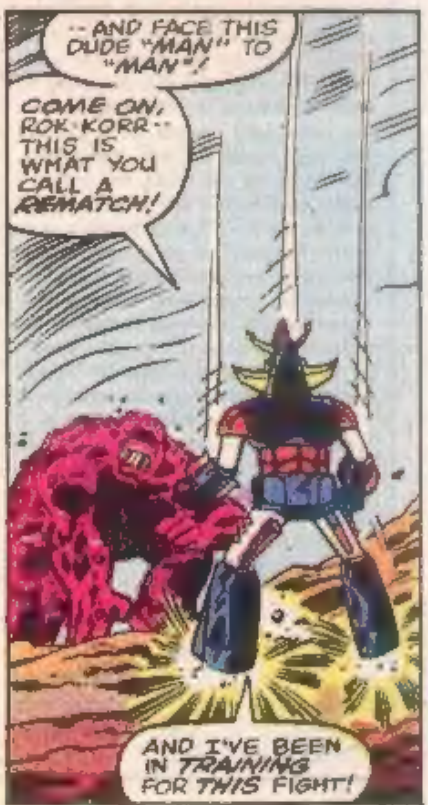
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


NO, I DON'T MIND, CARSON, AS YOU SAY, WE KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR ROBOTS NOW--AND I FEEL MUCH MORE CONFIDENT.
BESIDES, ANY IDEA THAT WILL SAVE LIVES ON THAT TRAIN IS A GOOD ONE.
RIGHT, GENJI. RAYDEEN MAY BE SOMEWHAT FASTER THAN US, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF SPEED OURSELVES.
GO ON, CARSON--WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
OKAY, BUT STAY CLEAR OF OUR DUST!
DEFTLY, CARSON MANIPULATES A SERIES OF LEVERS AND BUTTONS...
...CAUSING THE ROBOT TO ALTER ITS VERY STRUCTURE, LOOKING INTO A MORE SLEEKLY AERODYNAMIC FORM...
THEN, AS THE SUPERSONIC AFTERBURNERS KICK INTO FULL FORCE, THE AWESOME CONVERSION IS COMPLETE. RAYDEEN HAS BECOME--
FIREHAWK!
NOW, BIRD... LET'S MOVE!

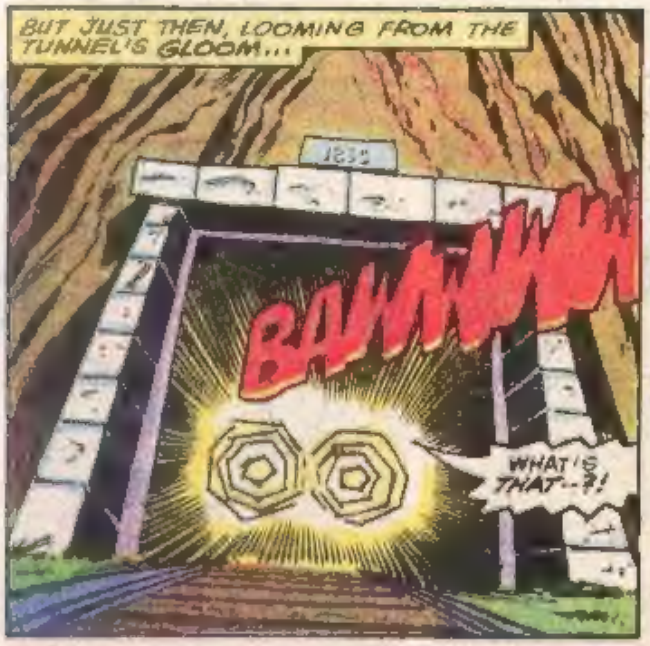

NINETY SECONDS LATER...
MY-OH-MY--THAT WAS QUICK, AND THERE'S OLD ROCK-PUSS HIMSELF!
LAST TIME WE MET, HE WAS SPITTIN' BOULDERS AT US...





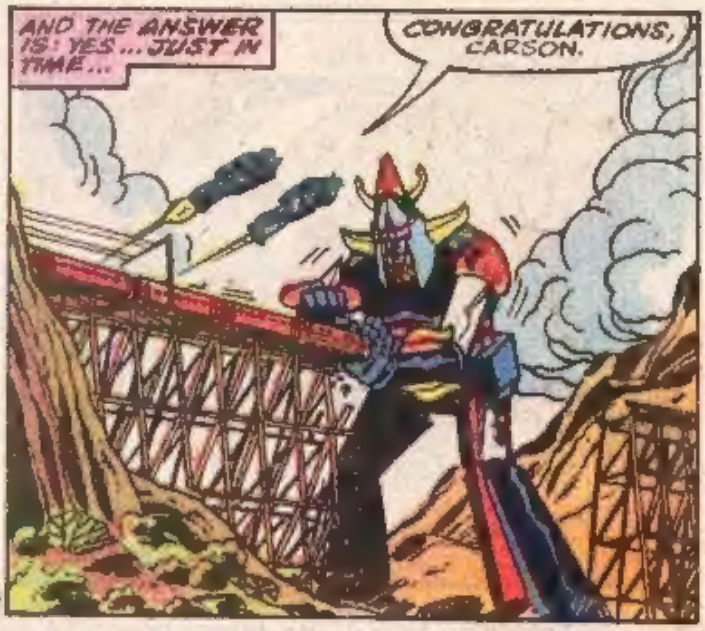


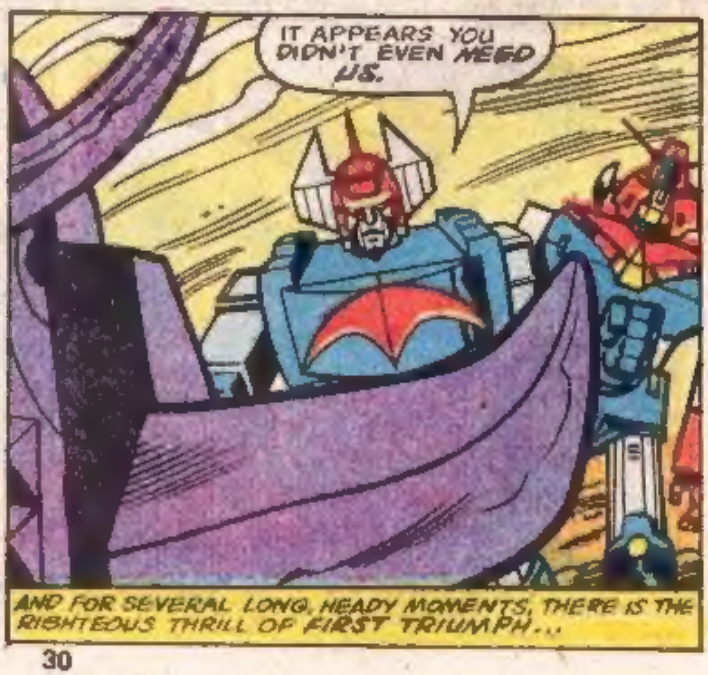
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

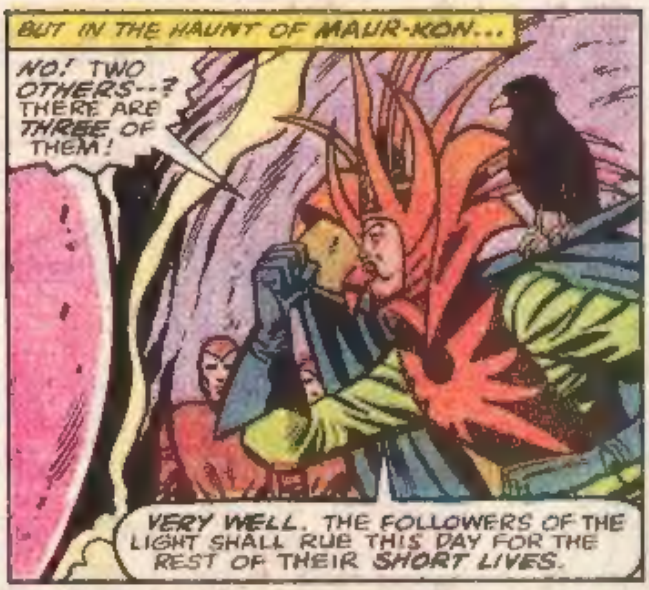

BUT JUST THEN, LOOMING FROM THE TUNNEL'S GLOOM...
BAAHHHH
WHAT'S THAT--?!

IT...IT'S A MONSTER!! CAN'T STOP THE TRAIN IN TIME!!
THE ENGINEER IS ALL TOO CORRECT...

...BUT THE QUESTION NOW IS: CAN RAYDEEN STOP ROK-KORR -- AS WELL AS THE TRAIN -- IN TIME?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD.
REMEMBER MY BREAKER-BLADE, ROK-KORR?
CHAKT


AND THE ANSWER IS: YES ...JUST IN TIME...
CONGRATULATIONS, CARSON.


IT APPEARS YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED US.
AND FOR SEVERAL LONG, HEADY MOMENTS, THERE IS THE RIGHTEOUS THRILL OF FIRST TRIUMPH...


BUT IN THE HAUNT OF MAUR-KON...
NO! TWO OTHERS--? THERE ARE THREE OF THEM!
VERY WELL. THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT SHALL RUE THIS DAY FOR THE REST OF THEIR SHORT LIVES.

WE SHALL MEET THIS CHALLENGE OF THREE BY EMPLOYING THE POWER OF OUR OWN MYSTIC THREE -- BY MULTIPLYING ROK-KORR INTO HIS THREE ELEMENTS!

GENJI IS THE FIRST TO NOTICE...
YOU SPOKE TOO SOON, SAVAGE. ROK-KORR IS RISING AND... GOD HELP US... HE'S DIVIDING--

-- SPLITTING INTO BEINGS OF EARTH, FIRE, AND WATER!
YOU'RE RIGHT, GENJI -- LOOKS LIKE THIS WILL REQUIRE ALL THREE SHOGUN WARRIORS...
YEAH, AND EVEN THEN... I'M NOT SO SURE I'D PUT ANY BETS ON OUR SIDE!
NEXT ISSUE
THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SHOGUN WARRIORS' BAPTISM OF FIRE, NOT TO MENTION EARTH!
ELEMENTS OF DESTRUCTION!